

CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN UPDATE 2009

CALIFORNIA TRIBAL WATER SUMMIT PLANNING TEAM

DRAFT Highlights from Meeting, April 10, 2009, in Sacramento

The fifth meeting of the California Tribal Water Summit Planning Team (PT) took place in Sacramento on April 10, 2009. The objectives of the meeting were to (1) finalize the format of the Summit Agenda, (2) review Summit audiences and finalize the Tribal and non-Tribal Summit invitation letters, and (3) review sponsorship approach and draft budget, and finalize the sponsorship letter.

Summit Agenda Format

The group made several suggestions for reformatting the draft agenda:

- (1) Have discussions on the first day, and policy discussions on the same topics on second day
- (2) Focus on success stories and partnerships
- (3) Convey clear expectations to state agencies about what information would be desired, e.g., who they are and what authority they have, what successful Tribal programs they have, and what policies and commitments they have to continue working with Tribes.
- (4) Develop white papers to be circulated to Tribes and agencies statewide, to encourage the development of positions and resolutions in preparation for the Summit
- (5) Include a dedicated block of time for focusing on next steps and a framework for action

Suggested keynote speaker topics included the legal standing of California Indians on water, and the cultural importance of water. PT members stressed the importance of prioritizing the cultural significance of water throughout the Summit, not as a discrete section or activity, and setting the stage for cultural aspects to be weaved through the agenda. Participants also emphasized that one theme of the Summit should be specifically on how the Water Plan and DWR intend to involve Tribes in the future, including their goals for involvement. The group noted that trainings were not the main purpose of a Summit, but that there could be stand-alone trainings and perhaps a grant and program fair modeled on the State's annual funding fair.

Summit Audiences and Invitation Letters

The group agreed that the letter should come from the Team, rather than highlighting DWR. The group noted the need to develop versions suitable for state agencies and members of the Legislature.

Sponsorship Approach, Budget, and Sponsorship Letter

The group also made several edits to the draft sponsorship letter. The need to track solicitations as well as donations was also noted. Participants expressed apprehension about the limited time available before the Summit. The group agreed on the benefit of hiring a dedicated conference planning if it could raise the overall funds as well as enough to cover such as service.